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EXAMINER

SHORT, PATRICIA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1712

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030140

Applicant(s)

Clareys et al

Examiner

Shunt

Group Art Unit

1712

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE One MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on April 30, 2002
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 21 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☒ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ☐ Other _____

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Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-9, drawn to thermoplastic aliphatic polyesters compositions having an RMFI value of 1.1 to 2.5.

Group II, claim(s) 10-14, drawn to a process of preparing aliphatic polyester compositions comprising reacting an aliphatic polyester and radical generator in an amount of 0.01 to 0.2 % in an extruder.

Group III, claim(s) 15-21, drawn to films, foams, bottles and thermally molded products.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As shown by EP '169, a process of improving the melt strength and elasticity of polyhydroxy acid compositions comprising reactive extrusion with organic peroxide in amounts as low as 0.05 % is known. See page 1, lines 7-11 and claims. Therefore, the claims lack a corresponding special technical feature and thus, a single general inventive concept.

Additionally, the following **three** elections of species are required.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species for the thermoplastic aliphatic polyester composition that are (1) a single polymer and (2) at least two thermoplastic aliphatic polyesters.

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Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claim 6 corresponds to a single polymer.

Claims 7 corresponds to at least two thermoplastic polyesters

The following claim(s) are generic: Claims 1-5, 8-21.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As shown by EP '169, polyhydroxy acid compositions having improved the melt strength and elasticity made by a process comprising reactive extrusion with organic peroxide in amounts as low as 0.05 % is known. See page 1, lines 7-11 and claims. Therefore, the claims lack a corresponding special technical feature and thus, a single general inventive concept.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

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Species for the method of introducing the radical generator that are (1) in a mixture with carbon dioxide, (2) with a thermoplastic aliphatic polyester containing the radical generator and (3) with a filler material containing the radical generator.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claim 11 corresponds to introducing the radical generator in a mixture with carbon dioxide

Claim 12 corresponds to introducing the radical generator with a filler material containing the radical generator.

Claim 13 corresponds to introducing the radical generator with a thermoplastic aliphatic polyester containing the radical generator

The following claim(s) are generic: Claims 10 and 14.

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As shown by EP '169, a process of improving the melt strength and elasticity of polyhydroxy acid compositions comprising reactive extrusion with organic peroxide in amounts as low as 0.05 % is known. See page 1, lines 7-11 and claims.

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Therefore, the claims lack a corresponding special technical feature and thus, a single general inventive concept.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species of articles that are (1) film, (2) foam, (3) bottles and (4) thermally molded product.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Claim 16-18 correspond to film.

Claim 19 corresponds to foam.

Claim 20 corresponds to bottle.

Claim 21 corresponds to thermally molded products.

The following claim(s) are generic: Claim 15.

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The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: As shown by EP '169, polyhydroxy acid compositions having improved the melt strength and elasticity made by a process comprising reactive extrusion with organic peroxide in amounts as low as 0.05 % is known. See page 1, lines 7-11 and claims. Therefore, the claims lack a corresponding special technical feature and thus, a single general inventive concept.

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July 17, 2003

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